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Economic and Social Council

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Commission for Social Development
Fifty-third session
4-13 February 2015
Agenda item 3 (b) (ii)
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Simona Mirela Miculescu (Romania), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] adopted on 13 December 2006, as a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

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Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[4] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[5]

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly,[6] held on 23 September 2013, which advanced the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, and acknowledging the value of their contributions to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Noting the reference to persons with disabilities in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[7] which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in the intergovernmental negotiation process,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[8] in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet",[9] which also integrated a disability perspective,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[10] by which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities,

Recalling the expiry of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability on 31 December 2014 and the decision of the Commission for Social Development to consider the possibility of establishing another monitoring mechanism, with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in social development,

Welcoming the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and efforts to create synergies within existing United Nations mechanisms,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting the equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the

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[4] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[5] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 68/3.

[7] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[8] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

[9] A/69/700.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming the issue of disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities into disaster risk reduction activities, and recognizing the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities,

Recalling the request to the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities and in relation to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as being aware of the importance of building on this panel discussion,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development in the completion of his mandate, and takes note of his report[11] and the expiry of the mandate;

2. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities,[10] and invites her to closely cooperate with the Commission for Social Development according to the development component of the mandate, including by making concrete recommendations on how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

3. *Decides* to hold, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, a multi-stakeholder panel discussion, entitled "Implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", with a view to further elaborating on how the existing mechanisms and entities within the United Nations system can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability issues and enhancing awareness and cooperation at all levels on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and to consider the possibility and modalities of another monitoring mechanism;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as urban planning and accessible community and housing

[11] E/CN.5/2015/5.

development, take into account the needs, rights and potentials of and benefits to all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

5. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by considering the ratification of its Optional Protocol,[12] as both human rights and development instruments;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of international development goals;

7. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of disability and development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations, and encourages the private sector, to regard accessibility as both a means and goal of inclusive and sustainable development, and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society, and, hence, to ensure that accessibility is an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

9. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve disability data collection, analysis and monitoring for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, fully taking regional contexts into account, and to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and underlines the need for internationally comparable data and statistics disaggregated by sex and age, including information on disability;

11. *Underlines* the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development and implementation of the emerging post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability;

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[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-fifth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, integrating the Chair's summary of the discussions and the proposals made during the multi-stakeholder panel discussion held during the fifty-fourth session.

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Commission for Social Development

Fifty-third session
3-14 February 2015
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

South Africa:*, draft resolution**

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2] reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[5] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[6] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[6] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

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New Partnership for Africa's Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[8] and noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to 25 November 2010 on the theme "Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion", and the third session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 November 2012, welcoming the fourth session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014 on the theme "Strengthening the African family for inclusive development in Africa", recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation, for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014), and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and taking note of the African Common Position on the Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] into the structures and processes of the African Union,

Noting with appreciation the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms needed to produce the expected results aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty in the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Welcoming the ministerial statements on the themes "Unleashing Africa's potential as a pole of global growth", "Industrialization for an emerging Africa", and "Industrialization for Inclusive and Transformative Development in Africa", adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their fifth, sixth and seventh joint meetings, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 March 2012, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, and in Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 and 30 March 2014, respectively, and the consensus statement on the theme "Governing and harnessing natural resources

[7] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

[9] A/57/304, annex.

for Africa's development" adopted at the eighth African Development Forum, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2012,

Remaining concerned that, while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Noting with concern the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, and welcoming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa launched at the Conference of Ministers of Social Development held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014,

Expressing concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to further strengthen the recovery, which is still uneven, stressing the urgent need for full recovery and sustained and accelerated growth, which translates into new employment opportunities, secure incomes and improved livelihoods, and reaffirming the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent,

Stressing that addressing Africa's special development needs should be given due attention in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Expressing grave concern at the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa and its unprecedented nature and scope,

Expressing deep concern about the potential reversal of the gains made in recent years by the three countries most affected by the Ebola outbreak in the areas of peacebuilding, political stability and the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure,

Noting that Africa is abundantly endowed with natural resources, including many industrial minerals and agricultural resources that are exported mainly in primary form, and that the exploitation of the natural resources sector in Africa has for many years attracted foreign direct investment in capital-intensive enclave sectors that has the potential, when paired with appropriate policies, including employment-intensive policies, to spur structural transformation, create employment, contribute to poverty eradication and reduce inequality,

Emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

Recognizing the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African

Union, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

Noting the decision of the General Assembly to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa,[10] enabling it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including by monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa,

Recognizing that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership and the international initiatives related to Africa, and emphasizing the importance of the close collaboration of the African Union Commission and the United Nations as the co-organizers of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development,

Recognizing also that investments in people, especially their social protection, health and education, are essential to enhancing agricultural productivity and performance, and thereby key to growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

Recognizing further that the lack of access to drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 35 countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[11]

Taking note of other initiatives, such as the first high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation on the theme "Building towards an inclusive post-2015 development agenda", held in Mexico City on 15 and 16 April 2014,

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[10] See General Assembly resolution 68/247 A, sect. VIII.

[11] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[12]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraging them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Further welcomes* the adoption of the Agenda 2063 framework document by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, as the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities;

5. *Welcomes* the decision on the organization of an extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to assess the progress in implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, to be organized by the African Union;

6. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

7. *Stresses* that industrialization is a critical engine of economic and social development, and emphasizes the need to accelerate Africa's industrialization by the adoption and implementation of specific measures and actions at the national, regional and continental levels and with the support of and in collaboration with development partners and the international community;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of taking measures to promote the dynamic diversification of African economies through transforming African economies from resource dependence, increasing local processing of and value addition to natural resources in order to expand the domestic economy and increase revenue, and developing new industries in order to transform lives and create opportunities for more and better jobs;

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[12] E/CN.5/2015/2.

9. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

10. *Also welcomes* the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014 to proclaim 2015 the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063;

11. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, and acknowledges the ongoing activities of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;

12. *Encourages* African countries to prioritize investments in building the institutional capacity of health systems, reduce health inequities within and across countries, progressively achieve universal health coverage, strengthen global health security and curb the outbreak of major diseases;

13. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of diseases, including of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the debt relief offered by international financial institutions to the countries most affected by the Ebola crisis, and invites consideration of further measures by partner countries to facilitate long-term debt management sustainability, including by enhancing debt management capabilities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and by considering additional debt relief on a case-by-case basis in order to alleviate the impact of the crisis on the economies of these countries and to assist in their economic recovery and development;

15. *Encourages* Member States to intensify global partnerships for development as a means to achieve and sustain the targets of the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

17. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

18. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

19. *Further emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

20. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

21. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

22. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

23. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

24. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability;

25. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

26. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

27. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010-2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners;

28. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and the implementation of commitments and the achievement of all development goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

29. *Urges* continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, reduced cost of sending remittances through official channels, the empowerment of women in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

30. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

31. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

32. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[13]

33. *Also recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008-2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

34. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, which should be aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing employment and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

35. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities;

36. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and in this regard notes the Global Education First Initiative of the Secretary-General and its objectives and invites Member States to contribute to the Initiative, as appropriate, including through the allocation of adequate resources;

37. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

38. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and

[13] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

39. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments to take advantage of the continent's demographic transition while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

40. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

41. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support and fulfil its commitments to take further action in areas critical to Africa's economic and social development, and welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

42. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[14] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and further welcomes the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[15] adopted on 2 December 2008, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

43. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

44. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

45. *Expresses deep concern* that illicit financial flows and poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks for mineral resources undermine national development

[14] A/63/539, annex.

[15] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

efforts, encourages African countries to take measures to address these challenges, and invites development partners to continue to assist African countries in tackling illicit financial flows;

46. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership into their development assistance programmes;

47. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012;

48. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;[16]

49. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

50. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

51. *Encourages* the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by mobilizing and providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

52. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

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[16] The nine clusters include infrastructure development; environment, population and urbanization; social and human development; science and technology; advocacy and communications; governance; peace and security; agriculture, food security and rural development; and industry, trade and market access.

53. *Encourages* African countries and their partners to maximize the opportunities presented by the convergence of major global policy events in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and to work to ensure that the new global framework duly considers the priorities encapsulated in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063 framework document;

54. *Invites* engagement in intergovernmental efforts to continue to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system in support of Africa and to continue to support the Economic Commission for Africa in the execution of its mandate, particularly by working with its members to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda gives due consideration to Africa's social development priorities;

55. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership at its fifty-fourth session;

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012 and 67/294 of 15 August 2013, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-fourth session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership.